

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 8005

By Moon

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Samuel N. Russell upon his receipt of the 10,000 Hour Award.

WHEREAS, the members of the General Assembly take great pride in specially recognizing those exemplary individuals who go above and beyond to serve their fellow Americans; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding citizen is Samuel N. Russell of Maryville, who has rendered sterling service to his fellow military veterans since 2005 and was recently presented the 10,000 Hour Award for his volunteer service by Volunteer Chief Mike Kromoff of the James H. Quillen VA Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, born on October 25, 1939, in Pennington Gap, Lee County, Virginia, Samuel N. Russell is the son of Samuel W. (Sam) and Marie Russell; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Russell grew up farming and worked as a farm laborer before joining the United States Army in 1958; he departed from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and was sent overseas to Vietnam in August 1967; and

WHEREAS, in Vietnam, Mr. Russell was in the middle of the Tet Offensive in 1968 in Nha Trang until that September; he returned to the United States and was stationed at Fort Stewart, Georgia, until June 1969, when he was sent back to Vietnam and assigned to Tuyen Wah until October 20, 1970; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Russell relocated to Maryville in 1981, where he went to work for Lowe's before taking his retirement; he later was employed by Toyota Tsusho America Inc., where he worked at DENSO Corporation for the next fourteen years before retiring for the second time on June 30, 2005; and

WHEREAS, after seeing an advertisement in the *Maryville Daily Times*, Mr. Russell began his volunteer service as a van driver for his fellow military veterans, driving them to their doctor appointments in Johnson City and appointments at the James H. Quillen VA Medical Center in Mountain Home, qualifying to drive the van in July 2005; and

WHEREAS, he eventually became the van coordinator and was responsible for scheduling other drivers, scheduling maintenance, and maintaining the records of the operation that runs from October 1 through September 30; and

WHEREAS, annually, the vans provide transportation services to over 400 veterans to and from their medical appointments in Johnson City and are retired after seven years or 150,000 miles, whichever comes first, and a new van is purchased by AMVETS to replace the retired van; and

WHEREAS, the retired vans are given away to an organization in need of a van, and the last one was donated to the Honor Guard in Parker's Crossroad and the Veterans Memorial; Mr. Russell now maintains the van at American Legion Post 13 in Maryville, where he has served as Commander since 2011; and

WHEREAS, we find it appropriate to pause in our deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Russell for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and his fellow veterans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Samuel N. Russell upon his receipt of the 10,000 Hour Award from the James H. Quillen VA Medical Center, extending our best wishes for his continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.